

Anaconda Times

Proudly Serving LSA Anaconda

Volume 1, Issue 14

May 3, 2004

LSA Anaconda gets field of dreams

Story by Pfc. Abel Trevino
28th Public Affairs Detachment

Across the globe, softball and baseball season is winding into high gear as children and adults partake in the pastime.

This year, in the midst of a combat zone in the middle of Iraq, Soldiers and contractors at LSA Anaconda will not be any different.

While the official softball season for LSA Anaconda does not begin until Saturday, a new softball field was broken in with an inaugural "one pitch" softball tournament Friday.

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder threw the ceremonial first pitch of the first game on the field – an upset defeat of 20-4 by the 29th Signal Battalion team over the 226th Medical Logistics Team.

"We're kicking off the season with a 'one pitch' tournament, to get everyone in the mood for softball. Then we begin a 45-day process that will pit 52 teams against each other in five different brackets," Elder said. "We definitely have a lot of interest in softball here."

The interest for the softball field started 45 days prior, when Elder tasked Master Sgt. Alan Bridgewater, LSA Anaconda Sports director, with the development of a sports program including intramural sports.

"Master Sgt. Bridgewater took the task, found the ground, laid groundwork and has basically put together a ballfield in the middle of a war zone in Balad, Iraq. We're pretty proud of the work he has done," Elder said.

Being modest about his contribution, Bridgewater said that logistically it was difficult, but the real effort was put in by



Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder commences with the coin toss for LSA Anaconda's new softball field inaugural game between the 29th Signal Battalion and the 226th Medical Logistics Team. The softball field, which was completed in 45 days, was christened with a "one pitch" softball tournament.

his eight local-national laborers and the 84th Engineer Battalion, who surveyed and leveled the field.

"I have to admit that first base went in at 3:30 p.m., with the game at 4," Bridgewater said.

Overall, reaction to the softball field was positive.

"The field is pretty good. It's all dirt, and they could use some grass out there, but the dust kick up isn't that bad," said Kenneth Louis Wydeman, 226th pitcher.

The field may not have many of the luxuries that people are accustomed to at softball fields, but it offers soldiers something more.

The chance to get out to the new field and take part in some athletic stimulation in this environment should put smiles on faces all across this post,

said Bridgewater.

"It's a good chance to do something different, to get out and get away from the war environment," said Wydeman.

"I had a blast. Gosh, it is fun to be back on a ball field. The guys and gals that were out there, even the team that lost, they were having fun. That's what we're here for, at this point, to bring the morale up. The soldiers have a mission to perform, and if we can give them the opportunity to get out there and have some fun and let off a little steam, it's great," said Bridgewater.

While here, thousands of miles from home, American soldiers are reminded that the United States isn't very far away after all.

"We're just out here enjoying an All-American sport in Iraq," Elder said.

NEWS

Page 2

May 3, 2004

13th COSCOM opens new command center

Story by Sgt. Ann Venturato
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

The 13th COSCOM opened a new command and control facility here April 18.

The new facility, called the Distribution Command Center, opened after a month-long construction.

Col.(P) James Chambers, the 13th COSCOM commander, started the vision for the center back in Fort Hood and the project itself was 8 months in the making, said Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder, the 13th COSCOM command sergeant major.

A lot of different folks here on the installation helped with the construction of the DCC such as Kellogg, Brown and Root, Department of Public Works and Morrell Construction, said Elder.

"KBR did all the carpentry and woodwork; Morrell Construction did the ceiling and the H-VAC system; and the Army engineers constructed an outside wall," said Maj. Walt Stanish, the 13th COSCOM secretary to the general staff.

Billy Azbell Electronics installed all the high technology screens and hardware that make the real time data possible at a touch of a fingertip, said Ed Topasna, a telecommunications engineer with Billy Azbell Electronics.

"The DCC is the center of operations for the new Corps Distribution Command, which is the distribution command for the 13th COSCOM," said Elder. "The DCC fuses together all of the commodities and all of the subordinate units, and it allows the CDC commander to provide visibility on all the different commodities and allows the 13th COSCOM to be more effective."

"It is a synergistic effect of bringing together all of the stove pipes that is each commodity or section kind of working in their own narrow field and allows for each of them to come together and resolve issues in a timely manner," added Elder.



Photo by Maj. John Sinclair

The 13th COSCOM Distribution Command Center opened here on April 18 to provide a more cohesive communications network for command and control.

"The DCC reaches beyond the established 'chain of command' by giving authority and responsibility to ensure the orderly flow of units, personnel, equipment and sustainment stocks," said Lt. Col. James Henderson, deputy commander for the CDC.

"The DCC is like a big puzzle, and each little piece of the COSCOM has their own little place in the puzzle, and it allows the commander to get a true picture when all the pieces of the puzzle are put together," said Elder.

"One of the first things you note about the new DCC is the complete organization of the cell," said Elder, "before it was probably disjointed, there were barriers between different agencies working together. Some were physical barriers and some of them were lack of conductivity or lack of visibility on what was going around them."

The center is designed so that everybody is working together. There are no walls between any of the cells there, said Elder.

"It's nice. It's a very clean way to work, better than working in a tent," said Master Sgt. Joe Hunt, the medical division sergeant for the 4th Corps Material Management Center.

Anaconda Times Editorial Staff

Col.(P) James Chambers
13th COSCOM Commander

Maj. Debra Summerlin and
Maj. Richard Spiegel
13th COSCOM Public Affairs Officers

Capt. Catherine Wilkinson
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Staff Sgt. David Gillespie
NCOIC, Public Affairs

Sgt. Annette B. Andrews
Sgt. Ann Venturato
Editors

Spc. James Truitt
Pfc. Leah R. Burton
Pfc. Abel Trevino
Staff Writers

Left Shoulder Diary



U.S. Army Forces Command

Compiled from Unit History

The U.S. Army Forces Command's shoulder sleeve insignia is characterized as a disc two and one-half inches in diameter. The one-eighth of an inch Army green border encloses three horizontal stripes of equal width with blue uppermost, white in the middle and red at the bottom.

Gen. John J. (Blackjack) Pershing adopted the design during World War I for wear by all personnel assigned to General Headquarters, American Expeditionary Forces.

A red, white and blue horizontally striped distinguishing mark worn as a brassard by staff officers when moving about on duty in congested areas in the front of World War I inspired the design of the insignia.

It was originally approved by General Headquarters, AEF, February 7, 1919, and re-designated for FORSCOM July 1, 1973.

FORSCOM has been involved in a number of large-scale efforts in support of national policy. Throughout its existence, FORSCOM has been involved in the support operations following natural disasters and fighting wildfires. It has also been deeply involved in military operations and the war on drugs since its activation.

Citizen Soldiers answer call for the love of their country

Story by Spc. James Truitt
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

Citizen soldiers were the first to defend our nation. Now, over 225 years later and thousands of miles away from home they are still answering the call.

A National Guard component unit manned primarily by soldiers from the Pacific Northwest formally assumed various duties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II throughout Iraq April 18.

The citizen soldiers of the 81st Brigade Combat Team left not only their families but also their civilian lives.

Men and women from all walks of life; teachers, students, owners of small businesses and postal workers set their education and careers aside to answer the call of duty.

"Within my command, I have got a Boeing engineer, medics, technicians, firefighters who make about 80 to 100 thousand dollars a year," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Barr, 81st BCT command sergeant major. "I've even got a battalion commander who makes more money on and off duty as a cop than he makes wearing the uniform."

Throughout our history, citizen soldiers have been called to serve in every major war and conflict, as well as many peacetime crisis.

"The guys who really don't need to do this, are here," Barr added. "But they are here because of their sense of duty and the love of their country."

Staff Sgt. Lyle Lamb, HHC, 81st BCT, Colt team chief, is a maintenance supervisor for the U.S. Postal Service in Portland, Ore.

"It was difficult leaving my family,"

said Lamb, a husband and father of five. "It was tough leaving my wife all by her lonesome with the kids, but she's proud to say her husband is serving [his country]."

"[LSA Anaconda] isn't too bad. It's a lot nicer than I thought it would be," Lamb said as he consumed another spoonful of the tutti-frutti ice cream. "We're out here to do a job. When that job is done, we'll go home."

"When I heard that we were getting activated, my first thought was 'I'm going back,'" said Master Sgt. Brian Thimming, a Sheboygan, Wis., native who works in the 81st BCT S-3 shop. "When I [deployed] here during the first gulf war, my kids were young. Now that they're older, they didn't like the idea of me [deploying] but they understand that it's my job and my life."

Thimming, works closely with the military in civilian life too as a technician repairing tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles.

"I've been getting paid to drill and train," Thimming added. "Bottom line, it is my duty to be here."

"From [National Training Center], we flew to Kuwait, crossed the border and convoyed to Camp Anaconda," said Brig. Gen. Oscar B. Hilman, 81st BCT Commanding General. "Now we're here together performing our American duties as a team."

"I'm very proud of my soldiers," added Hilman. "I'm proud of them, and of their outstanding performance."

The 81st BCT recently assumed base security responsibilities from the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

COMMENTARY

Page 4

May 3, 2004

Soldiers get new entitlements

By Capt. Andrew Meetze
126th Finance Battalion

The 126th Finance Battalion is delighted to be providing finance support to units operating in and around LSA Anaconda.

The Battalion Commander is Lt. Col. Lee Ransdell and the Command Sergeant Major is Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Scott.

Our home base is Fort Bragg, N. C. Our Battalion is in building # 4139, across from the AAFES Exchange. We provide pay support in the following seven areas listed below:

- Check Cashing
- Casual Pay Processing
- Active Component Military Pay Support
- Guard/Reserve Component Military Pay Support
- Unit PAC (Personnel Action Center) Support
- Commercial Vendor Services
- Unit Pay Agent-Fund/Clear

Our office hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The first day following the end-of-month pay, we are open for extended hours from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Our Unit Pay Agents may receive funds or clear their accounts on Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also, there is Unit Pay Agent Training on Fridays at 3 p.m., in our building.

Our Commercial Vendor Service section provides support to local vendors on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Currently, there are two CJTF-7 policies in effect that limit your ability to withdraw cash.

The check-cashing limit is \$200 a week and the casual pay limit is \$350 a month.

If you need assistance in any of the above areas please feel free to contact one of our section supervisors.

The Detachment Commander is Capt. Andrew Meetze, and the Detachment Sergeant is Sgt 1st Class Lorraine Goddard.

The Deputy Disbursing Officer is Capt. Charles Goettler, and the Chief Military Pay and Exam is Staff Sgt. Nichole Tavares-Gibbs

The Customer Service NCOIC is Sgt. Jose Urena.

Unit PAC NCOIC for the Active component is Sgt. Sara Belden, and the Unit PAC NCOIC for the Guard/Reserve component is Sgt. Ehren Murrow.

The Commercial Vendor Services OIC is Capt. Andrew Meetze, and the Commercial Vendor Services NCOIC is Staff Sgt. Michael Blagmon.

New Entitlements

There are two new military pay entitlements being offered for Soldiers serving in combat areas.

The first is for Soldiers serving more than 365 days ("Boots On the Ground") in a combat zone. The second is for Soldiers performing demolition duty with live explosives, while serving as combat engineers.

All Active and Guard/Reserve component Soldiers who meet the eligibility requirements are entitled to these payments.

HDP-T/AIP

The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense has issued a message to authorize Hazardous Duty Pay-Tempo and Assignment Incentive Pay for all military members who are in a unit currently deployed in Iraq that the Combatant Commander has determined will be required to remain in Iraq or Afghanistan beyond the unit's normal 12-month rotation re-

turn date. The Soldier will be offered the incentive package for any month or portion of a month they are extended in Iraq. This policy is effective immediately.

A Soldier must be either deployed for 12 consecutive months or 12 months in a 15-month period.

The monthly entitlement for HDP-T is \$200. This entitlement is in addition to the current monthly Hardship Duty Pay-Location entitlement of \$100.

The \$200 monthly entitlement continues to be paid each additional month a Soldier remains beyond their original redeployment date of 365 days.

The AIP entitlement is different than the HDP-T. A Soldier must choose one of two options. The first is \$800 a month and the second is a stabilization tour at your home station equal to the time you spent deployed.

Only active duty Soldiers are eligible for option number two. The entitlements are paid on a monthly basis, even if a Soldier only spends one day on the ground in that theatre. Details on receiving this entitlement are forthcoming.

Demolition Duty Pay

The Army has issued a message to authorize Demolition Duty Incentive Pay effective February 9.

Soldiers serving as combat engineers whose primary duty involves demolition of explosives are entitled to demolition duty incentive pay of \$150 a month.

Combat engineers must be placed on competent orders, requiring the performance of demolition duty.

A Soldier is entitled to this allowance each month they perform demolition duty involving live explosives. Soldiers must complete a DA 4187(Personal Action Form) with their respective unit S-1 and submit to their servicing finance office.

LIFESTYLES

Page 5

May 3, 2004

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

If you could eat anything, what would it be?



Sgt. Matthew Stoothoff
Company A, 299th FSB

*"Some good pizza from
Papa Johns or Dominos."*



Spc. Latoya Harmon
301st CSH

"McDonalds."



Airman Talmadge Beasley
Air Force Cmd. 332 ECS

"Steak."



1st Sgt. Vivian Byrd
50th Finance Battalion

*"Fried catfish, collard
greens and cornbread."*



Spc. James Crews
82nd Medical Company

"Home cooking."



Sgt. Mark Mihulka
Company A, 249th Eng.

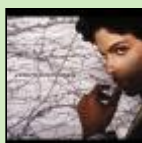
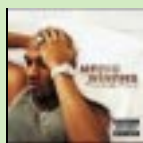
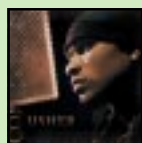
"A real cheeseburger."

LIFESTYLES

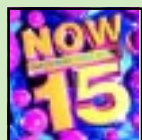
Page 6

May 3, 2004

Billboard Top 20 Albums



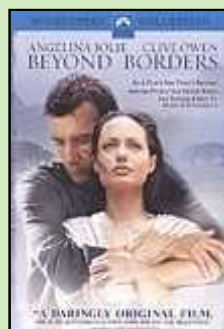
1. Usher, **Confessions**
2. Mario Winans, **Hurt No More**
3. Prince, **Musicology**
4. Various Artists, **Now 15**
5. Hoobastank, **The Reason**
6. Ghostface, **The Pretty Toney Album**
7. Jessica Simpson, **In The Skin**
8. Guns N' Roses, **Greatest Hits**
9. Evanescence, **Fallen**
10. Kanye West, **The College Dropout**
11. Norah Jones, **Feels Like Home**
12. Mercy Me, **Undone**
13. Outkast, **Speakerboxxx/The Love Below**
14. Lil' Flip, **U Gotta Feel Me**
15. Janet Jackson, **Damita Jo**
16. Kenny Chesney, **When The Sun Goes Down**
17. Drowning Pool, **Desensitized**
18. Alicia Keys, **The Diary Of Alicia Keys**
19. Maroon5, **Songs About Jane**
20. Twista, **Kamikaze**



MOVIE REVIEWS

By Sgt. Ann Venturato

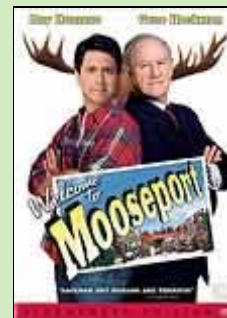
Beyond Borders



A drama starring Angelina Jolie and Clive Owens where Jolie plays the naïve wife of a businessman who is impacted to help aid underdeveloped countries when her path crosses with Owens' character. The movie spans moments in their lives as their paths cross again. You'll need a tissue for this one.

Welcome to Mooseport

Ray Ramano plays a hardware store owner running for mayor. He is about to lose his long time girlfriend to his opponent, a former president of the United States. It is a comedy where the campaign for office and the campaign for the heart are a barrel of laughs. I definitely cast my ballot to see this one again.



Cheaper by the Dozen



Not a bad movie, but as remakes go, the first one was better. It is a movie with a lot of star appeal like Steve Martin, Bonnie Hunt and Hilary Duff. A cute movie with a few funny moments, but overall not worth seeing more than once. It would be cheaper to wait and rent it at the video store.

SPORTS

Page 7

May 3, 2004

American League Standings

American League East	W	L	GB
Boston	15	6	-
Baltimore	12	9	3
Yankees	12	11	4
Tampa Bay	7	14	8
Toronto	7	15	8.5
American League Central			
Minnesota	15	7	-
Chi. White Sox	13	8	1.5
Detroit	12	11	3.5
Cleveland	9	13	6
Kansas City	7	14	7.5
American League West			
Texas	13	9	-
Anaheim	13	10	.5
Oakland	11	12	2.5
Seattle	8	15	5.5

National League Standings

National League East	W	L	GB
Florida	15	8	-
Atlanta	11	10	3
Philadelphia	10	11	4
N.Y. Mets	9	14	6
Montreal	5	19	10.5
National League Central			
Chi. Cubs	13	9	-
Houston	13	9	-
Cincinnati	12	10	1
Milwaukee	12	11	1.5
St. Louis	12	11	1.5
National League West			
Los Angeles	14	8	-
San Diego	15	9	-
Colorado	9	12	4.5
San Francisco	10	14	5

NBA Playoff Scoreboard

April 25

L.A. Lakers 92, Houston 88
 Indiana 90, Boston 75 (**Pacers win series**)
 New Jersey 100, New York 94 (**Nets win series**)
 San Antonio 110, Memphis 97 (**Spurs win series**)

April 26

Detroit 109, Milwaukee 92

April 27

New Orleans 96, Miami 85
 Minnesota 84, Denver 82

April 28

L.A. Lakers 97, Houston 78 (**Lakers win series**)

April 29

Detroit 91, Milwaukee 77 (**Pistons win series**)
 Sacramento 119, Dallas 118 (**Kings win series**)

April 30

Miami 87, New Orleans 83 (Heat lead series 3-2)
 Minnesota 102, Denver 91 (**T'wolves win series**)

NHL Playoff Scoreboard

April 25

Tampa Bay 3, Montreal 1
 Philadelphia 2, Toronto 1

April 26

San Jose 1, Colorado 0

April 27

Tampa Bay 4, Montreal 3 (OT)
 Calgary 3, Detroit 2

April 28

Toronto 4, Philadelphia 1 (Flyers lead series 2-1)
 Colorado 1, San Jose 0 (Sharks lead series 3-1)

Thursday, April 29

Tampa Bay 3, Montreal 1 (**Lightning win series**)
 Detroit 4, Calgary 2 (Series tied 2-2)

Friday, April 30

Toronto 3, Philadelphia 1 (Series tied 2-2)

PHOTOS

Page 8

May 3, 2004

Pvt. Murphy's Law



Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

Staff Sgt. William S. Pulver, one of the 1462nd Transportation Company's many truck drivers, reaches for a cool drink at the unit's small Post Exchange on LSA Anaconda.



Photo by Maj. Don Gates

Sgt. Jeremy Nixon from the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion is shown with some children at the Village of Ramaden school during the final inspection of the school on March 30.



Photo by Maj. Don Gates

TF 2-108 conducted a damage assessment for stray bullets at a farm house near FOB O'Ryan. After the assessment, the Soldiers drink some tea with a local family on March 23.